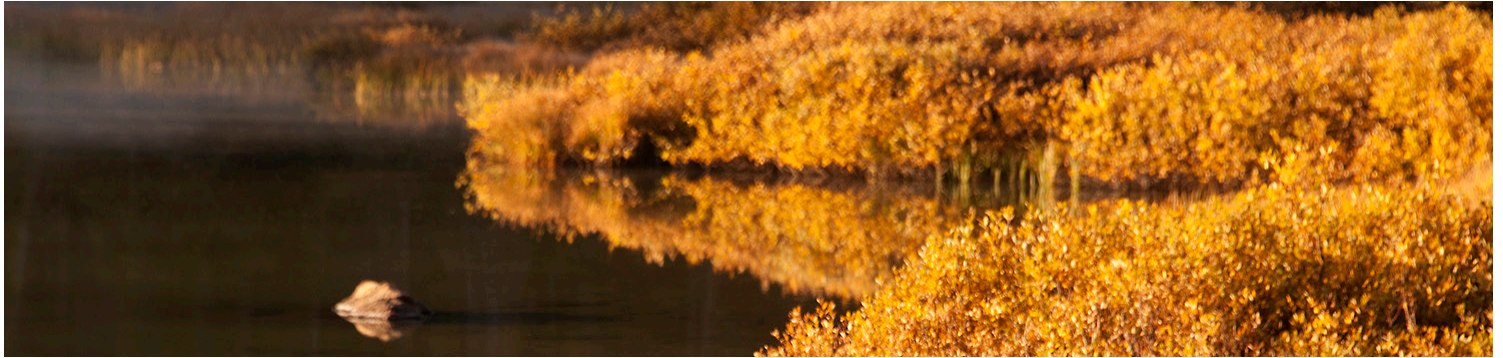


# IN THE FIELD

## Your Fall Update from the Wyoming Outdoor Council



Dear friend,

*For many of us, autumn is a time to pause and focus on the changes happening all around us. The turning leaves, the migrating birds, and the realization that — somehow — another Wyoming winter is already looming. By extension, it's also a natural time to start picturing the year ahead — and at the Wyoming Outdoor Council we've resolved to take advantage of the opportunities we see on the horizon. Please read on to learn more about the work your membership makes possible.*

With huge thanks,

Executive Director

[lisa@wyomingoutdoorcouncil.org](mailto:lisa@wyomingoutdoorcouncil.org)

### INDIGENOUS CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP

I'm happy to report that two staff — Yufna Soldier Wolf and Big Wind Carpenter — have new positions. As WOC's Indigenous conservation manager and associate, respectively, they are integral to our Red Desert, climate change, wildlife and citizen engagement work. Yufna is laying the groundwork to protect sites with Indigenous cultural or historic significance in the Red Desert. WOC and the Indigenous Land Alliance of Wyoming expect to nominate a number of sites, landmarks, and trails

as “areas of critical environmental concern” — a BLM designation for public lands that need a unique management approach to protect particular values or resources.

The 2022 edition of FIELD Training — the Outdoor Council's conservation leadership program — was reimagined to focus specifically on youth from the Wind River Reservation. The students who made up the eight-week course in Fort Washakie had the opportunity to learn about Tribal government and leadership, water rights and management, getting involved in the legislative process, and advocacy through the arts. We hope to support a new group of future Indigenous leaders through FIELD Training in 2023.

### ENERGY & CLIMATE CHANGE

There is arguably no greater risk to Wyoming's environment and quality of life than climate change. The good news is that the Inflation Reduction Act is expected to reduce carbon emissions in the U.S. by 40 percent over the next decade. The changes that will bring about this reduction, however, are not without impacts. Experimental technologies in nuclear, carbon capture, and hydrogen are being proposed here in Wyoming. Industrial-scale renewable energy is already here, and has too often been sited in high-conflict areas without a statewide plan, or any incentives to develop in already disturbed areas. This needs to change. To meet this moment head on, we're making some changes of our own. We've created an Energy and

Climate Policy Director position. Congratulations to John Burrows who is moving into this position. We hope to hire two additional advocates to work with John in the coming year, one focused on local climate action and the other on legislative advocacy.

Outdoor Council staff played a major role in organizing Wyoming's first statewide Climate Summit, which was hosted over the summer by the Lander Climate Action Network. The summit's panel discussions and workshops touched on climate science, local climate action, and opportunities for Wyoming communities (you can find recordings on LCAN's YouTube page). Indigenous conservation associate Big Wind Carpenter is to thank for ensuring the summit also provided a platform for Indigenous voices and incorporated Traditional Ecological Knowledge into climate solutions. We're committed to supporting future climate summits in other parts of the state, hosting community listening sessions, and engaging with citizens to build on this momentum.

## LANDS & WILDLIFE

On Sept. 24 — Wyoming Public Lands Day — WOC once again co-hosted Run the Red along with Wyoming Wilderness Association and NOLS. While introducing trail runners to the stunning Northern Red Desert via half-marathon, 50K and 100K routes, this year's race was also designed to inspire people who love the desert to take action. All runners either supported Citizens for the Red Desert with a small donation, or participated in a public lands stewardship project.

Last month we welcomed new public lands and wildlife advocate Meghan Riley to our staff. Meghan comes to WOC with a master's degree in zoology and physiology from the University of Wyoming and many years of experience as a wildlife biologist, and will be focusing on big game migration corridors, sage-grouse habitat, and land management planning in the BLM's Rock Springs field office and on the Bridger-Teton National Forest.

We anticipate that the Sublette pronghorn migration corridor (commonly known as the Path of the Pronghorn) will be brought before the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission in the very near future for designation under Gov. Mark Gordon's big game migration executive order. We'll keep you, and supporters in the Pinedale area, updated about how to get involved as the process moves forward.

## THANK YOU!

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All of this work is thanks to members like you. As Wyoming's homegrown, statewide conservation organization, membership matters. We're only

## WATER

An important part of WOC's water quality advocacy is monitoring permits filed through state agencies, particularly those related to the disposal of oil and gas wastewater. While we're proud to fill this essential and unsung watchdog role, we want to empower other conservation and hunting and angling groups, as well as people like you, to understand and weigh in on water and wastewater permits and violations. We're currently drafting a resource guide to help members of the public navigate the sometimes-confusing world of water quality regulation.

Brandon Reynolds, the Outdoor Council's lead water quality advocate, is also building partnerships to collaborate on water issues around the state, including the formation of a Wyoming Water Roundtable. Stay tuned for more details in the months to come.



able to respond to new threats and support new opportunities that will help us meet our mission because of your support.